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NOR' BY EAST

NEWS OF THE CASCO BAY ISLANDS

VOL 4, NO. 1

TRIUMPH IS JUST "UMPH" ADDED TO TRY.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1962

ISLAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF CASCO BAY ELECTS OFFICERS



Winthrop K. Deane
President I. D. A.

The Ballot Committee of I. D. A. has announced the following election of officers as determined by the opening of sealed and mailed ballots from the membership.

President, Winthrop K. Deane; Vice-president, Harry D. Varney; Secretary, Mary J. Deane; Treasurer, Jessie D. Carney; all of Peaks Island. Named to the Steering Committee were Glenn E. Haines, Colonel A. S. Hocker, Malcolm R. Leete, A. John Shute (and past president John W. Chapman, ex-officio) of Peaks Island

(Continued on Page 8)

Greetings for 1962 to Casco Bay Residents

* * *

It is sincerely hoped that this new year will mark the beginning of a new era of growth and prosperity for the beautiful islands of Casco Bay.

So that this issue of Nor' by East may be received by all summer residents, as well as many potential new vacationers, the following have cooperated in making available the extra copies, mailing and addressing.

- Department of Economic Development, Recreation Division
- Maine Port Authority
- Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce
- City of Portland
- Town of Cumberland
- Casco Bay Light & Power Company



"Please don't eat the ornaments"

Richard Spear, left and Scott Sargent. Inset, Norman Sargent.

FAITH IN THE BAY ●●●●

The Casco Bay Island communities are showing positive signs of growth and development.

Contrary to popular information, during the past two years there has been an increasing building and renovation trend affecting property on all islands. For example, there are two new houses on Cliff Island; in 1960 the first new house in fifty years was built on Great Diamond Island, and another one was constructed in '61 complete with private wharf.

Two new houses have been built on Chebeague Island.

On Peaks Island a 100 year-old Inn, long abandoned, has been purchased and remodeled into a modern home, and an adjacent house is currently under similar construction. Numerous properties have been substantially re-

An Economic Weathervane ●●

modeled and converted from summer to year-round homes. Property sales during the past two years have shown a substantial upswing.

There is a new store front on the building formerly used as the post office and now is a modern Laundermat and Bicycle Renting business. In 1960 a miniature "ten cent store" comparable to household supply departments on the mainland, was opened, and currently is being expanded under new headquarters.

Utilities in 1960 dropped about three per-cent in number of customers, but during 1961 have regained one per-cent (as of last summer.) In July the Casco Bay Light and Power Company serving the entire Bay mailed 1496 bills as compared with 1465 the

(Continued on Page 6)

WHO'S WHO IN CASCO BAY

Seen recently across the nation by Associated Press photo were two newest islanders — genuine natives!

The two infant newcomers in the early months of '61, are Scott (born Feb. 15) son of Mr. and Mrs. George Sargent; and Richard (March 16) son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spear. both of Peaks.

Both babies drew country-wide attention as the results of Christmas ornaments made of decorated starfish by 12-year old Norman, brother of Scott Sargent. Norman bids fair as a junior achievement enterpriser turning starfish into salable novelties. Mrs. Sargent, who took the picture for AP's Boston office, is widely known for her magazine articles as well as news photography.

We can be sure there'll be much starfishing come summer!

"Nor' By East"

Box 66, Peaks Island, Maine

Published by Island Development Association for residents and visitors of Casco Bay Islands. A non-profit publication supported by advertisers and members of the Association. All work except printing donated by members.

Editorial

UNITY

"We shall all hang together or hang separately."

These words are as applicable today as they were when uttered years ago. Then, as now, the resolving of problems relating to common welfare of all was necessary for survival.

Each of the islands in Casco Bay has its own specific problems to be solved by the individual island. However, certain subjects are common to all the Islands and vary only in degree of population. These are the areas which call for united and concerted action.

Whenever a common problem has been faced by a community, its solution is generally possible unless the weeds of disunity and self-aggrandizement are permitted to halt progress.

It is much to be desired and hoped that the various Island groups will find a way to build and strengthen their efforts with good-will and co-operation and erase from the scene any and all elements of conflict.

If individualism must be, then let itself become known through strong and intelligent leadership as it relates to each island, but subordinate itself in unity for the greatest good of the greatest number.

"Nor' by East" editorially affirms that this can be accomplished — and that it must be — as we look forward to a new era of island development socially and economically.

THE WEATHER "COOPERATED"!

Thanks to excellent weather conditions and outstanding cooperation by all participants the Maine Port Authority was able to complete the wharf rebuilding program that enabled service to be restored to five Islands in Casco Bay by December 31, 1961.

Limited funds prevented the Port Authority from removing from the site all of the old Forest City Landing at Peaks. However, this will not interfere with service. Under the program the Port Authority was not in a financial position to consider disposition of the so called "Green Restaurant" building at Peaks. However, these two matters are under study.

Edward A. Langlois
Director, M. P. A.

DR. PAYSON SMITH NAMED HONORARY CHAIRMAN

EDITORIAL BOARD,

NOR' BY EAST

Nor' by East is being strengthened at the editorial level by the formation of an editorial board. A very distinguished member of our Association, Dr. Payson Smith, has agreed to serve as honorary chairman. Meetings will be held at the Eastland Motor Hotel. Representation from the various islands is planned to broaden the participation and news coverage. Members of the board will be announced in a later issue.

This issue has been edited by Mrs. John W. Chapman.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

A Bouquet for Advertising Manager
October 27, 1961

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed please find check in the amount of \$4.00 for payment of ad in the October issue of NOR' BY EAST.

You are very fortunate in having such an excellent advertising manager as Selma Pierce, and I wish to thank you for the professional placement of my ad which is very good.

Cordially yours,

Thomas R. Lynch

TAX REVENUES AND OUTLAY

A reader comments on the City Manager's compilation of tax revenues from the islands and City's expenditures for the islands, as presented in our October number, as follows.

This exhibit of islands tax collections \$120,149, and direct expenditures \$278,054, in 1960, presents such an incomplete picture that no worthwhile conclusion may be derived from it. The big tax money pouring into the City's coffers from all its industrial and business enterprises is indirectly, and mostly, paid by people living in residential areas who spend their money here. Taxes collected from any residential district will not pay for the direct and indirect services for that district. Conversely, island residents get services not charged to the islands in the Manager's statement — use of high schools, City Building, Public Library, mainland wharves, streets, etc., etc.

It is most likely that all residential tax-payers get full value for their money. But let's not reach erroneous conclusions by trying to analyse and departmentalize the City's financial statement in a manner which is impossible. City accounts are not set up so as to allocate portions of tax intake from industrial and business areas to residential areas.

THE CASCO BAY INTER-ISLAND ASSOCIATION

by Lawrence Stevens

Who is it? What is it? How did it come about?

These are questions unanswered to many islanders and thus a thumbnail sketch herewith.

The group first met last spring at the invitation of Samuel H. Howard of Peaks Island for the purpose of obtaining bay-wide support to defeat two bills filed by the Casco Bay Lines in the last regular session of the legislature. (The bills requested a monopoly provision and a state subsidy of \$25,000 annually for two years.)

By-laws were prepared and adopted by the Inter-Island group with the provision for two elected members from each island, with House Island included by one member. It was specified that officers be elected annually in November and that, wherever possible, a summer resident and year-round resident be chosen from each island.

Present members are: Samuel Howard, (chairman) and Fred Stevenson, Peaks Island; Joseph Feeney (secretary) and Theodore Rand from Little Diamond; R. W. Laughlin and Charles Taylor of Great Diamond; Samuel H. Connor (vice-chairman) and Lawrence L. Stevens of Long Island; Miss Johanna Von Tiling (treasurer) and Paul MacVane, Cliff Island; Ray Hayward and Dr. Karl Pederson of Chebeague Island; Hilda Cushing, House Island. (Recently elected to serve on an Advisory Committee was Winthrop K. Deane of Peaks Island.)

To assist in preparations for the legislative hearings, Judge Harris E. Bullerwell was engaged as counsel, and contributions were made by various individuals on all the islands to provide legal fees. Both of the bills were defeated; and another attempt by Casco Bay Lines to obtain a so-called "monopoly" was also defeated in the special session of the Legislature.

Among other subjects dealt with by the Inter-Island Committee was an effort to form a corporation among island people for the possible purchase of the Casco Bay Lines. Although a considerable amount of interest was shown resulting from a letter to all residents the plan was tabled due to the inability to negotiate the purchase.

Members of the committee have worked both individually and collectively on the various aspects pertaining to construction of the new wharves. The Committee was also helpful in the transportation crisis of

(Continued on Page 6)

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND NEWS

by Ray Hayward



BRIDGE EFFORTS RENEWED:

Undaunted by the fact that their petition for a state-wide referendum on the Chebeague Island Bridge Bill was denied last year because of minor technicalities, the people on the Island have started all over again. Since November, in spite of transportation difficulties, the Island petitioners have already secured over ten thousand signatures of registered voters from more than 250 towns and cities in every county in the State.

Last year's dramatic and last-minute nullification of their efforts has apparently resulted in state-wide awareness of the issue at stake. The Island petitioners have uniformly met with encouraging and even enthusiastic response from an overwhelming majority of the people contacted.

PROPERTY SALES UP:

Confidence in the economic future of the Island is revealed by the fact that an unusual number of real estate transactions have taken place during the past year, with over a dozen pieces of property on the Island changing hands. Several people from out-of-state have recently become year-round residents.

BOAT YARD FILLED:

Alden Brewer, owner of the Chebeague Island Boat Yard, reports that his boat house is filled with pleasure boats hauled out for the winter and that the adjoining Boat Yard has accommodated over thirty fishing and pleasure boats, including an eight-ton ketch and a forty-five foot lobster smack.

NEWLY-WEDS TO LIVE ON CHEBEAGUE:

On January 13th at the Old South Congregational Church in Worcester, Mass., Miss Linda Lucille MacDuff of Princeton, Mass., became the bride of Hartley Brewer of Chebeague. Mrs. Brewer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roderick MacDuff who maintain a summer residence here. The newly-weds are honeymooning in California and will return to make their home on Chebeague.

NEW GRANGE MEMBERS:

On January 9th four new members of the Chebeague Island Chapter of the Grange were installed. Inductees were Miss Bertha Hayward and Mrs. Mark Burgess, formerly of Lexington, Mass.; and Captain and Mrs. James J. Craven, Jr. Captain Craven recently retired from active service at the United States Army Chemical Center in Maryland.

LADIES AID HELPS CHURCH:

Under the auspices of the Ladies Aid, a beautiful new carpet has been installed in the island Church. This ambitious little group of women have been responsible for most of the improvements made in the church, parish house and parsonage. Their good works help keep the island community on the up-hill grade.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY:

For the second year a community Christmas party was held at the Chebeague Island School House. Previously the various organizations would have their own party, but decided to contribute to one big party . . . which was attended by around two hundred and fifty persons. The young people worked on the elaborate decorations and did the decorating. It was a festive occasion enjoyed by young and old alike.

FAR OUT CLIFF ISLAND

Cliff Island is one of the Calendar Islands in Casco Bay, located nine sea miles out of Portland and is the farthest inhabited island out to sea in this group.

It is a combination fishing and residential community and is legally part of the City of Portland to which it pays taxes. The inhabitants comprise twenty-five year round families and approximately seventy-five summer families. The year round residents are "farmers of the sea," lobstermen and seiners. Many island children have gone ahead into teaching, nursing, art work and other professional fields.

The summer residents include: college professors, clergymen, a lady engineer, scientists, authors, business executives, physicians, retired people, — even a retired admiral, from fifteen states and as far away as California.

These people share in a community life which they feel is unique in this area and support:

- A Community Association which meets in a hall built by volunteer labor.
- A Mothers' Service Organization.
- A Library with over 5500 volumes.
- A Volunteer Firemen's Association.
- A Tennis Club.

They also share in common the real, current problems with respect to transportation which touches vitally every segment of the community — for the only available means of transportation to the mainland is by boat.



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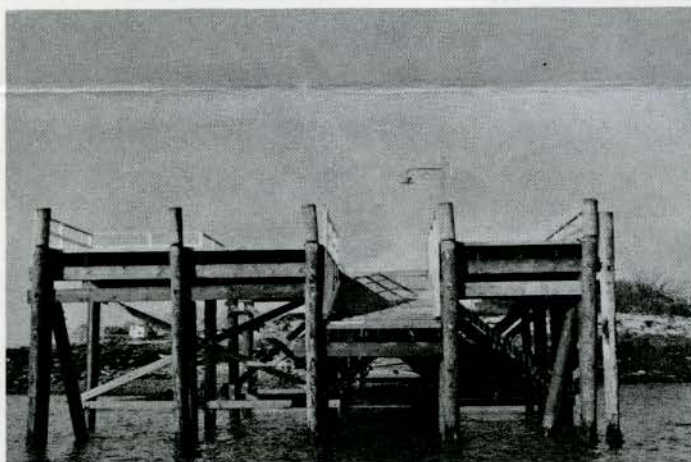
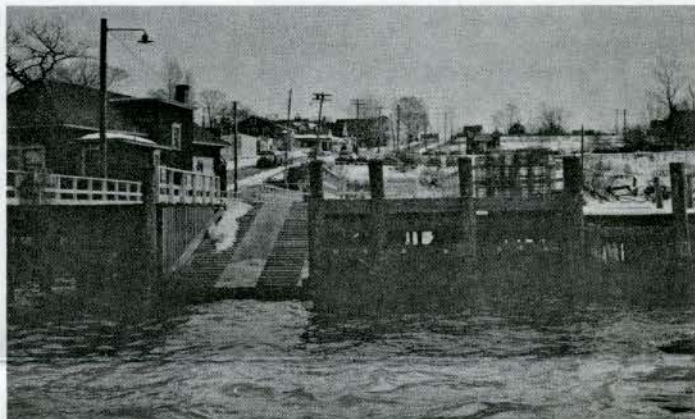


MY ISLAND

The cry of a gull is a lonely cry
But I like it;
The fog is a veil which shuts out the sky
But I like it;
The roar of the surf is an angry roar;
My island has moods but it's never a bore
And I like it!

Katherine W. Stewart

New Wharves and Restored Boat Service.



TOP — "Aucoscisco" lands at Peaks, left. The new solid front, right.

CENTER — Wide walk on Chebeague's new wharf, left. The "new look" on Long Island, right.

BOTTOM — Great Diamond, head-on, left. Little Diamond from shore, right.

Some of the Casco Bay Island Homes In Their Winter Setting.



TOP — Torrington Point, left; and Island Avenue, Peaks.

CENTER — Home of Mr. and Mrs. Orin Perry, Peaks, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barrett, Long Island.

LOWER — "The milkman cometh" — daily deliveries of various services to island homes. Right: Typical winter view.

(Continued from Page 1)

year before. This, with an average of four per household, means that during that month there were at least 5,984 people living in Casco Bay despite the long period of adverse publicity and transportation problems.

As each crisis approached, business offices noticed more calls from out-of-state asking if and how property owners could get onto their island, rather than calls asking about getting off.

* * * *

These facts are evidence that island life has a fascination for a lot of people, many of whom will endure all kinds of inconvenience to reach the island of their choice.

To take a closer look at the assets of Casco Bay, location and natural beauty would lead the list of resources. In 1960 a report issued by a temporary committee under the chairmanship of Ted Rand, operator of a Marina on Little Diamond Island, ably pointed out the factors to be considered in the "potential" of the islands, as well as some down to earth statistics on taxation and revenue (including money spent in the Portland area by summer residents.)

This report was forwarded to City Officials with a strong request for vision and cooperation in solving the problems and joining in an energetic program for the Bay.

* * * *

In addition to a review of the history of the islands (which were settled before the City of Portland) it is shown that in area the islands owned by Portland comprise about 17 percent of the total area of the City. In addition, Great Chebeague Island in the Town of Cumberland has over twelve miles of shore frontage and covers 2,000 acres.

There are thirty-three miles of shore front property on the Portland islands — this, at a time when Atlantic coastline property has almost completely disappeared from the available market!

Some factors too, in considering development of the islands, is the increasing trend toward suburban living, the waning popularity of traffic congested areas . . . thus enhancing the value of the island pace; the great increase in boating; and the always rising population, along with desire for shore front property.

* * * *

Other assets of the islands include excellent utilities; nearness to Portland — and of great importance the increasing influx of out of state vacationers, and those who decide to retire on a Casco Bay Island.

ACTION CAME FROM THE TOP

How the islands finally got new wharves was the result of action at the highest level of the state starting with the Governor and Council meeting in executive session, says Robert L. Travis, chairman of the Governor's Council.

The Council voted to provide \$106,000 and the city of Portland \$26,000 for reconstruction of five wharves to provide the necessary restoration of boat service.

"Both the state and city governments are indeed pleased with the manner in which the Maine Port Authority expedited this program with the target date of December 30 for completion. It was a fine accomplishment to more than meet their goal and to see completion of the program by the middle of December."

The Governor and Council appreciate the assistance and understanding rendered by the island people in bringing about this great improvement.



Mrs. Mae Littlejohn, Peaks Island, receives holiday candy tree from Mrs. Glenn Harries, Chairman of I.D.A. Sunshine Committee.

Boston and New York are a very ready source to tap for investors and patrons of the Bay.

The countless possibilities for development are being recognized more readily by out-of-staters than they have been locally. All recent purchases of surplus government properties, aside from the Army pier on Peaks, and House Island, have been by out-of-staters . . . many of whom must await the local resolving of community problems before proceeding with investment plans.

The time, indeed, seems right — in 1962 — to turn the tide from bad news to good news in Casco Bay.

New Year's Greetings!

E. E. CLARKE

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John and Mary Justice

50 Years Ago

The report has been widely circulated that the ferry boat Elizabeth City may be placed in service between Peaks Island and Long Island.

RATE HEARING

The PUC suspended for three months the Casco Bay Lines' request for substantially increased passenger fares. A hearing on the request is pending.

(Continued from Page 2)

last summer when no boat service was available at Long Island, and a strong appeal to the City brought about a public float for private boats.

Currently the committee is engaged in plans to be represented at forthcoming hearings of the Public Utilities Commission pertaining to the request of CBL for substantially increased rates.

For this work more funds will be needed for legal counsel. The cooperation and interest of all islanders is sincerely urged.

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CHUCKLES

*"Yes, Michael," said the mother
"the baby was a Christmas present
from the angels."*

*"Well, mama," replied Michael, "if
we put him away carefully and don't use
him, can't we give him to somebody else
next Christmas?"*

NEW YEAR SPECIALS ONLY

* * *

Peaks Island

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3 bedrooms, cement foundation,
garage including annex of 5 rooms
for income.

Lovely grounds.

Price, \$9,000

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Also

Newly painted 4-bedroom cottage.
2 beds in each room. 1½ bath.
In excellent condition.

Completely furnished.

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* * *

And

Furnished 2-bedroom bungalow

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**New! Fun for all!
AUTOMATIC PIN SETTING
PEAKS ISLAND
BOWLING ALLEY**

STORM-PROOF LIGHT AND POWER

Many have remarked about the low frequency of service interruption during storms on the Casco Bay Islands, where many homes are totally dependent on electric power for heat as well as other uses.

This is the explanation given to Nor' by East by John W. L. White, treasurer of the Casco Bay Light and Power Company:

"When we know a storm is coming we try to be sure that things are safe as possible, and once the wind reaches our area our actions will depend on the effects we experience. When our station operator finds that he is getting short circuits—which kick out his main switches—due to tree limbs coming down on wires or the wind blowing the wires together, we have found it beneficial to kill the whole system while the storm passes. In so doing we have minimized the storm damage by preventing the burning down of wires which would have occurred if the system was kept alive.

"This procedure which can be carried out in a relatively small service area like ours, permits us to resume service to our customers at a much earlier time than would be the case otherwise. In other words, if we did not 'kill' the system, many more wires would be burned down and it would take a great deal longer to make repairs and give customers service."

I.D.A. ELECTS

(Continued from Page 1)

Elected to the Steering Committee from other islands "down the Bay" were:

Long Island, Lawrence Stevens.
Chebeague Island, Robert Follette.
Cliff Island, Norman Black.
House Island, Hilda Cushing.

A few votes were received for representatives of other islands naming persons not yet enrolled as IDA members and thus invalidating these few votes.

* * * *

When notified of his election as president, Deane said:

"Thank you very much for your expression of confidence. With the assistance of the membership I will make every effort to carry forward the purposes of our association."

Ed. Note — Deane, a relatively new year-round resident, moved to Peaks Island from Boston in October of 1960 and is employed as Trust Officer for the Canal National Bank.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY CASCO BAY PROBLEMS

At the special session of the legislature held in November, a bill was passed authorizing a committee to investigate the Casco Bay transportation problems and report to the next regular session of the legislature. This will be a long-range study and will be led by Senator Ralph Brooks, Jr. of Yarmouth who has been named chairman of the Committee.

House Speaker Vinal Good of Sebago was authorized to appoint one democrat and three republicans to the joint House and Senate Committee. He selected Ronald L. Kellam, (D) of Portland; Richard N. Berry, (R) Cape Elizabeth; Norman Minsky, (R) Bangor; and Edwin F. Maddex, (R) Vinalhaven. Members named by Senate president Earle Hillman are, Brooks (later selected as chairman) E. Perrin Edmunds, (R) Fort Fairfield and Sylvio J. Gilbert, (R) Augusta. Governor Reed appointed former Senator Seth Low, (R) Rockland; Sumner S. Clark, Portland City Council; acting postmaster Edward J. Bernstein; and Robert L. Stevens of Peaks Island.



Robert L. Stevens

Ed. Note: Stevens, selected as resident of the area under study has lived on Peaks Island for twenty-eight years. He is active in many state organizations and fraternal orders, most recently serving as grand master of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a member of the Ancient Landmark Lodge, AF and AM and Kora Temple in Lewiston, Shrine; a life member of the Maine Charitable Mechanics Association; is present secretary of the Portland Executives Club; and on the staff of the Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol. He is a member of the Portland and Lincoln Clubs and of the Portland Rotary Club. He is employed as treasurer of Frost Mimeograph Company.

LITTLE DIAMOND BOOKLET PUBLISHED

"A Short History of Little Diamond Island" was recently written for the island's Cogawesco Club by Miss Jessie Stuart of Cambridge, Mass., with map by Hal Hackett of Portland, showing the location and ownership of the 39 cottages.

This 21-page booklet, distributed in mimeographed format, has six sections covering the six decades 1910-1960. A 3-page supplement by Walter Towne of Port Charlotte, Fla., gives reminiscences of the 1880's and 1890's.

Mention is made of the Nissen family (now Baking Co.) operating a summer boarding house early in the century in what is now the Milliken cottage.

In 1908 George W. Brown formed the Maine Coast Realty Co., bought land for development, establishing a water system, reservoir and sewers, and planted 100 maple trees along the roadsides. He built a restaurant, bath-house, and a \$2,000 bathing pool near the landing. The enterprise was not a financial success and lasted only four years. The bath-house became the first Casino, and the restaurant became the later (and present) Casino.

The Little Diamond Island Association was incorporated in 1912 to take over the assets of the realty company. The British Vice Consul, Frederick Keating, was the first owner of the former restaurant. The bath-house was moved, to become the summer home of Ralph Bryant.

The Casino, now operated by the Cogawesco Club, was opened in 1924. Island life was given a lift by the bringing of Sebago Lake water in 1914, and again in 1926 by the bringing of electricity.

Social activity was promoted by the forming in 1922 of the Macao Club by Mrs. George Haynes, now most elderly resident, whose shore cottage is located nearest the Casino. Two years later the club took the name of an Indian chief who is believed to have lived on the island in the 17th century — Cogawesco.

Miss Stuart, in smoothly flowing prose, tells of the charm of community life on the island, centering in the Casino, and for the younger element for many years, in the tennis court. The narrative tells of incidents and events through the depression period, the war days and more prosperous times, and how the islanders kept up their spirit even through the transportation difficulties of 1960.

Robert Skillings